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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Soviet-Iranian Border)

SUBJECT Soviet Frontier Guard Activities,
Astara Area; Soviet Navy Maneuvers
in the Caspian Sea

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1. Increased activity of the Soviet frontier guard in the Astara area was observed during the months of November-December 1951 and January 1952. The new Soviet frontier replacements which arrived in the Astara area were observed holding daily training maneuvers. Firing exercises were conducted with 81 mm mortars, light and heavy machine guns, and automatic rifles. The frontier groups were split up into training units which, for training purposes, were under the command of two officers and three sergeants who were not from the frontier guard.
2. In addition to training activities, the frontier guard was active in constructing new frontier security barriers and fortifications.
3. The Soviet two-man frontier patrols in the Astara area have been increased by one man.
4. a Soviet mobile radio communications unit running between the Soviet frontier posts of Reza-Baghi, Zardali, Anuz, and Korpi-Post. The unit is believed to be based at Korpi-Post.
5. A mobile medical unit manned by three nurses was observed moving daily from Soviet Astara to the subsidiary frontier posts at Masjed Mahalleh, Gapchi-Mahalleh, Alasha, Qermezi Post, Hashterud, Korpi-Post, Anuz, Zardali, and Reza Baghi.
6. Toward the end of December 1951 reports were received that Soviet frontier authorities were distributing rifles to certain Soviet inhabitants in the neighborhoods of Korpi-Post and Qermezi Post. Three armed Soviet civilians were subsequently observed in this area.

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7. Sea patrols in the Astara area were likewise increased. During the three months of November-December 1951 and January 1952, Soviet armed warships violated Iranian coastal waters, which fact gave rise to numerous exchanges of correspondence between Iranian and Soviet frontier officials. It is also believed that the Iranian Foreign Office has officially protested to the Soviet government regarding these violations.

- 25X1 8. [redacted] in mid-January of 1952, the Soviet Caspian Fleet left Baku under the command of Rear Admiral Grigoriy Grigorevich Oleinik, and cruised in the Caspian, appearing before the two Iranian ports of Pahlevi and Bender-Shah.

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